

Phillip Burton's service. Virtually all of the important steps forward taken in America during the turbulent 60's and 70's—civil rights, labor protections, pension security, education, land preservation, national parks—were deeply affected by Phillip Burton's tireless efforts. He was, in the words of Ted Simon in the *Los Angeles Times*, a "stupendous and original figure" who changed the political and legislative landscape as few before him ever dared to imagine.

Surely the greatest disappointment of his life was his failure to become Majority Leader, a race he lost by a single vote. And yet how proud he would be to know that one of his political godchildren—of which I happily count myself as one—would two decades later occupy the highest position in this House held by a Democrat, and the first woman to ever lead a party in Congress, his fellow San Franciscan NANCY PELOSI.

I knew Phil Burton throughout my entire life. He and my father worked together to build the modern California Democratic Party in the years after World War II. Many of the outstanding political leaders of our state, including George Moscone, Willie Brown, scores of members of the Legislature and Congress—including our current senate president John L. Burton—were students, friends and collaborators of Phil Burton.

When I came to Congress in 1975, I was placed on the same committees as Phil—Interior and Education and Labor. As a junior member, I saw first hand his extraordinary political acumen in meeting after meeting, often in his secret office in the Longworth Building, as he planned everything from minimum wage increases to welfare policy, to his historic mega-parks bill, or his even more impressive reapportionment map in 1982. Phil knew more details about any issue than just about anyone I have known here, and he knew more about almost everyone's district, too. Members might beg him to draw a line a little more in their favor, but Phil would be able to recite from memory, and without computers, the precise registration numbers in the newly configured district. "You're in your mother's arms," he'd tell disappointed colleagues, "now get to work."

The Congress and the Nation are very different from when Phil served here. The tone is different; the agenda is different; and our dedication to using the power granted us by the voters to improve the lives of the working people, minorities, the poor, the immigrants and to improve the environment—well, that's very different, too. I'd like to believe we'd be a better country if Phil Burton had gotten to be Majority Leader and Speaker of the House.

Instead, 20 years ago today, we lost a "brawling character and legislative strategist extraordinaire," in the words of Richard Cohen. In the sprawling, wildly popular Golden Gate National Recreation Area that he created—the Nation's most popular urban park—stands for all time an imposing statue of Phil Burton, tie askew, jacket flapping, arm outstretched. It is Phil at full throttle, in command, perpetually barking out a command direction and organizing the troops. There are a number of smaller models of that statue in some offices on the Hill, reminding us what it was like to serve with a true congressional legend, and continuing to summon up the best we have to offer for all the people of this nation.

RECOGNIZING THE DR. SAMUEL D. HARRIS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY AS THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

### HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today to announce the introduction of a resolution to recognize the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, located in Baltimore, Maryland, as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States.

As the most comprehensive dental museum in the world, it is a national and international resource whose primary mission is to educate people, especially children, about the history of dentistry and the importance of good oral hygiene. The museum uses state-of-the-art, interactive exhibitions and expert presentations to deliver the message that oral health is important to achieve overall health. Currently, the museum is displaying an exhibit entitled, "The Future Is Now! African Americans in Dentistry."

The museum is affiliated with the University of Maryland at Baltimore, home of the world's first dental school, founded in 1840. It contains hundreds of interesting and significant dental artifacts, not the least of which is George Washington's dentures. It also serves as a national center of learning with an extensive library from which scholars may study the evolution of dental treatment and learn of the numerous accomplishments of the dental profession over the years.

Most importantly, this museum is a reminder to all of us that oral and general health are inseparable, and good dental care is critical to our overall physical health and well-being. While oral health in America has improved dramatically over the last 50 years, these improvements have not occurred evenly across all sectors of our population, particularly among low-income individuals and families. Too many Americans today lack access to dental care. According to the report, "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General", an estimated 25 million Americans live in areas lacking adequate dental services.

Unfortunately, states are facing extremely tight budgets, and have been forced to implement difficult cost containment measures and unpopular proposals to generate revenue savings—tax increases, cuts in education and cuts/elimination of Medicaid services. As a result, Medicaid programs have taken a direct hit, and dentistry has already become a target for program cuts—17 states reducing or eliminating adult dental services between 2002–2003. As a result, medically needy groups, including the frail elderly, will no longer have access to necessary dental treatment.

Passage of my resolution to make the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry the official national museum of dentistry in the United States will shine a bright light on the problem some Americans face in accessing dental care.

The museum is endorsed by the American Dental Association, National Dental Association, American Dental Education Association, American College of Dentists, International College of Dentists, and the American Academy of the History of Dentistry, among others.

Please join me in supporting this national treasure by becoming a cosponsor of this important resolution. Thank you.

### UNCONDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR STATE OF ISRAEL

### HON. MAJOR R. OWENS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, April 11, 2003

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the following brief statement speaks for itself with respect to my appreciation for the State of Israel. Israel is presently in the midst of an intense violent struggle which has led to the accumulation of many progressive critics. While I sympathize with the plight of the Palestinian people, I am also convinced that they are primarily the victims of their own leaders—and the jihad fanatics around the world who insist on the use of savage violence to achieve their goals. Israel has no choice but to meet the fanatic violence with violence. Arafat and the Palestinian leadership have set the stage and made the rules for this ongoing destructive engagement. Even if you accept the assumption that the Palestinian people have some legitimate grievances, one can still not condone the method they have chosen to seek solutions. For any group confronted by an overwhelming governing power, Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela have shown the way. The use of nonviolence to petition for the redress of assumed grievances was and still is a choice for the constructive forces among the Palestinians. On the other hand it is a certainty that Israel will never negotiate any change while confronted with the savagery of suicide bombings. We would all like to see this kingpin conflict in the Middle East resolved. I am convinced that it can be resolved permanently and peacefully because Israel is not just another government held together by greed and military power. Israel is the democratic nation guided by a long history of suffering and inspiring human spirits that I describe in this speech at the AIPAC Capitol Club Dinner on March 30, 2003:

I consider it an honor to have an opportunity to reaffirm my unconditional support for the State of Israel. On any major matter involving Israel my vote is always there. I believe firmly and fervently that the salvation of the kind of civilization I want my grandchildren to inherit and enjoy cannot be realized unless we establish many more truly democratic nations all over the globe. Those who believe that more democracy is the answer should also automatically be advocates for Israel. Starting with a constitution which is probably more thorough and more practical than even the United States Constitution, Israel is a model democracy. And woven into the tapestry that makes Israel a great nation are the spirits of Golda Meir, David Ben-Gurion, Menachem Begin and other similar great sages. These spirits accomplish for Israel what the spirits of Jefferson, Lincoln, Truman and others contribute to the definition of America as a nation. We all agree that a nation is more than anyone administration or one set of policies and diplomacy postures. Founding principles and ideals interwoven with the great spirits permanently define a nation. Those who say that Israel is a Middle East outpost for the U.S. or that the